

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A system, adapted for use in a communications network, for evaluating at least one communication link between a transmitting node and a receiving node in the communications network, the system comprising:

A1 a processor, ~~adapted to~~ for assigning a link quality value to said communication link based on a transmit power level (TPL) value at which said data packet was transmitted by said transmitting node, a received sensitivity (RS) value of said receiving node receiving said data packet, and a receive signal strength indication (RSSI) value provided by said network.

2. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a packet analyzer, ~~adapted to examine~~ for examining a content of a data packet being sent between said two nodes to determine said TPL.

3. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

said processor ~~is adapted to~~ receives said RSSI value from a physical layer of said communications network.

4. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said processor ~~is adapted to~~ determines whether additional data packets are to be sent by said transmitting node to said receiving node via said communication link based on said link quality value.

5. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said network includes an ad-hoc wireless communications network; and  
said processor ~~is adapted to~~ assigns said link quality value to said communication link between said transmitting and receiving nodes which are each wireless nodes in said ad-hoc wireless communications network.

6. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said network includes an 802.11-type network; and  
said processor ~~is adapted to~~ assigns said link quality value to said communication link between said transmitting and receiving nodes which are each wireless 802.11-type nodes in said 802.11-type network.

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

7. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
said processor calculates said link quality value as a link quality ratio (LQR) represented by the equation  $LQR = 1 - (TPL - RSSI)/(TPL - RS)$ .

8. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
said processor ~~is adapted to~~ assigns a respective said link quality value to each respective one of said communication links between said transmitting and receiving nodes.

9. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein:  
said processor ~~is adapted to~~ selects one of said communication links as a selected route via which additional data packets are to be sent by said transmitting node to said receiving node via said communication link based on said link quality value.

10. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein:  
said processor selects as said selected route one of said communications links having the highest link quality value.

11. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
said processor assigns said link quality value on a per packet basis.

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

12. (Original) A method for evaluating at least one communication link between a transmitting node and a receiving node in a communications network, the method comprising:  
assigning a link quality value to said communication link based on a transmit power level (TPL) value at which said data packet was transmitted by said transmitting node, a received sensitivity (RS) value of said receiving node receiving said data packet, and a receive signal strength indication (RSSI) value provided by said network.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:  
examining a content of a data packet being sent between said two nodes to determine said TPL.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:  
receiving said RSSI value from a physical layer of said communications network.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:  
determining whether additional data packets are to be sent by said transmitting node to said receiving node via said communication link based on said link quality value.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein:  
said network includes an ad-hoc wireless communications network; and

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

said assigning assigns said link quality value to said communication link between said transmitting and receiving nodes which are each wireless nodes in said ad-hoc wireless communications network.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

said network includes an 802.11-type network; and

said assigning assigns said link quality value to said communication link between said transmitting and receiving nodes which are each wireless 802.11-type nodes in said 802.11-type network.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

said assigning calculates said link quality value as a link quality ratio (LQR) represented by the equation  $LQR = 1 - (TPL - RSSI)/(TPL - RS)$ .

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

said assigning assigns a respective said link quality value to each respective one of said communication links between said transmitting and receiving nodes.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

selecting one of said communication links as a selected route via which additional data packets are to be sent by said transmitting node to said receiving node via said communication link based on said link quality value.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein:  
said selecting selects as said selected route one of said communications links having the highest link quality value.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein:  
said assigning assigns said link quality value on a per packet basis.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium of instructions, adapted for use with a communications network for evaluating at least one communication link between a transmitting node and a receiving node in the communications network, the instructions comprising:

a first set of instructions, ~~adapted to~~ for assigning a link quality value to said communication link based on a transmit power level (TPL) value at which said data packet was transmitted by said transmitting node, a received sensitivity (RS) value of said receiving node receiving said data packet, and a receive signal strength indication (RSSI) value provided by said network.

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

a second set of instructions, ~~adapted to examine~~ for examining a content of a data packet being sent between said two nodes to determine said TPL.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

a third set of instructions, ~~adapted to~~ for obtaining said RSSI value from a physical layer of said communications network.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

a fourth set of instructions, ~~adapted to determine~~ for determining whether additional data packets are to be sent by said transmitting node to said receiving node via said communication link based on said link quality value.

27. (Original) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, wherein:

said network includes an ad-hoc wireless communications network; and

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

said first set of instructions assigns said link quality value to said communication link between said transmitting and receiving nodes which are each wireless nodes in said ad-hoc wireless communications network.

28. (~~Currently Amended~~) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, wherein:

said network includes an 802.11-type network; and

said first set of instructions assigns said link quality value to said communication link between said transmitting and receiving nodes which are each wireless 802.11-type nodes in said 802.11-type network.

29. (Original) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, wherein:

said first set of instructions calculates said link quality value as a link quality ratio (LQR) represented by the equation  $LQR = 1 - (TPL - RSSI)/(TPL - RS)$ .

30. (Original) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, wherein:

said first set of instructions assigns a respective said link quality value to each respective one of said communication links between said transmitting and receiving nodes.



31. (~~Currently Amended~~) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a fifth set of instructions, ~~adapted to~~ for selecting one of said communication links as a selected route via which additional data packets are to be sent by said transmitting node to said receiving node via said communication link based on said link quality value.

32. (Original) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 31, wherein:

said fifth set of instructions selects as said selected route one of said communications links having the highest link quality value.

33. (Original) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23, wherein:

said first set of instructions assigns said link quality value on a per packet basis.

34. (~~New~~) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
said processor is employed in said receiving node.

35. (New) A system as claimed in claim 34, wherein:

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

said receiving node is a mobile wireless node in said communications network.

36. (New) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein:

said processor is employed in said receiving node.

37. (New) A system as claimed in claim 36, wherein:

said receiving node is mobile.

38. (New) A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said processor is employed in said receiving node.

39. (New) A system as claimed in claim 38, wherein:

said receiving node is mobile.

40. (New) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

said receiving node performs said assigning step.

41. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein:

said receiving node is a mobile wireless node in said communications network.

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

42. (New) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein:  
said receiving node performs said assigning step.

43. (New) A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein:  
said receiving node is mobile.

44. (New) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein:  
said receiving node performs said assigning step.

45. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44, wherein:  
said receiving node is mobile.

46. (New) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 23,  
wherein:

said first set of instructions controls said receiving node to assign a link quality value to said communication link based on a transmit power level (TPL) value at which said data packet was transmitted by said transmitting node, a received sensitivity (RS) value of said receiving node receiving said data packet, and a receive signal strength indication (RSSI) value provided by said network.

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

47. (New) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 46,  
wherein:

said receiving node is a mobile wireless node in said communications network.

48. (New) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 27,  
wherein:

said first set of instructions controls said receiving node to assign a link quality value to said communication link based on a transmit power level (TPL) value at which said data packet was transmitted by said transmitting node, a received sensitivity (RS) value of said receiving node receiving said data packet, and a receive signal strength indication (RSSI) value provided by said network.

49. (New) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 48,  
wherein:

said receiving node is mobile.

50. (New) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 28,  
wherein:

said first set of instructions controls said receiving node to assign a link quality value to said communication link based on a transmit power level (TPL) value at which said data packet

Appl. No. 10/091,035  
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003

was transmitted by said transmitting node, a received sensitivity (RS) value of said receiving node receiving said data packet, and a receive signal strength indication (RSSI) value provided by said network.

51. (New) A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 50,  
wherein:

said receiving node is mobile.

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